

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

*Page 1, after the title, insert the following heading and paragraph:*

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International Application No. PCT/EP02/01854 filed February 21, 2002, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference, and which claimed priority to German Patent Application No. 101 08 775.6 filed February 23, 2001, the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

*Page 1, Line 2, insert the heading:*

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

*Amend the paragraph beginning on Page 1, Line 3 as follows:*

The invention relates to a master cylinder, often also called a master brake cylinder, for a vehicle hydraulic brake system having a housing, which has a bore, which extends along a longitudinal axis and is sealingly closed at one end by an end wall forming part of the housing of the master cylinder and at the other, opposite end by a closure element, having a piston, which is guided in the bore and extends in a sealing and axially displaceable manner through the closure element, and having a central valve, which is formed on the piston and enables a fluid connection between a fluid reservoir and a pressure chamber delimited in the bore by the end wall and the piston and which in the non-actuated state of the piston is held in open position by an abutment component acting upon the closure element, wherein the closure element is formed by two annular, axially mutually adjoining parts releasably connected to one another, of which the first part facing the bore is made of an elastomer material and the second part remote from the bore is made of a rigid material. Such a master cylinder is known from DE 196 10 834 C1, which is incorporated by reference herein.

*Page 2, Line 19, insert the heading:*

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

*Replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, Line 20, with the following new paragraph:*  
~~The underlying~~ An object of the present invention is to make available a master cylinder having a closure element, which is easier and faster to assemble yet may be assembled securely.

*Page 4, Line 9, insert the following paragraph:*

Various objects and advantages of this invention will become apparent to those skilled in the art from the following detailed description of the preferred embodiment, when read in light of the accompanying drawings.

*Page 4, delete Lines 10 through 12.*

*Page 4, Line 13, insert the heading:*

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

*Page 4, Line 20, insert the heading:*

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

*Page 8, after Line 16, insert the following paragraph:*

In accordance with the provisions of the patent statutes, the principle and mode of operation of this invention have been explained and illustrated in its preferred embodiment. However, it must be understood that this invention may be practiced otherwise than as specifically explained and illustrated without departing from its spirit or scope.

*Page 11, Line 3, delete the heading "Master cylinder".*

*Page 11, Line 22, delete "Fig. 1".*